

lives of students and families from the Bedford community.

Each year, the Department of Education recognizes the academic excellence of a select few elementary, middle, and high schools across the nation through the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program. In order to be recognized as a Blue Ribbon School, schools must demonstrate that their institution leads students of all backgrounds to master meaningful and challenging material. The Blue Ribbon designation process is highly selective, with only two schools across the State of New Hampshire receiving a 2021 Blue Ribbon designation.

Receiving its first Blue Ribbon award in 2012, Memorial Elementary School has shown a consistent dedication to each student's learning and wellbeing that has not gone unrecognized. Being named a National Blue Ribbon School is no small feat, and I am proud to serve and represent a school district with such a strong commitment to academic excellence.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to congratulate and thank everyone who has helped make Memorial Elementary School the exemplary institution that it is today.

GENERAL RAYMOND ODIERNO  
MEMORIAM

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 12, 2021*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, my thoughts and prayers go out to the family of General Ray Odierno, who passed away over the weekend. I was grateful to have met the General in my capacity as a Member of Congress and fellow veteran, and appreciate his service to our country.

As reported in the New York Post:

Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, a New Jersey native and former Army Chief of Staff, who led the successful "surge" that turned both the tide of battle and American public perception in the Iraq War, died Friday at age 67.

"The general died after a brave battle with cancer; his death was not related to COVID," his family said in a statement. There were no further details given.

The Association of the United States Army reported the general had a lengthy record and did several tours overseas.

"During more than 37 years of Army service, he commanded units at every echelon, from platoon to theater, and served in Germany, Albania, Kuwait, Iraq and across the U.S.," the report stated.

Odierno, who rose to the rank of four-star general, served three tours of duty in Iraq and it was under his command that elements of the 4th Infantry Division captured Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein on Dec. 13, 2003.

"Caught like a rat," Odierno famously stated, in one of the signature moments of America's post-9/11 military conflicts.

"He was in the bottom of a hole with no way to fight back," Odierno, then a major general, told global media, as images were broadcast around the world of the once-feared former dictator being dragged out of hiding by U.S. troops.

Odierno was born Sept. 8, 1954, in Rockaway Township, NJ, the son of a World War II Army sergeant and working mother. A

star high school athlete, the towering 6-foot-5 inch Odierno played both baseball and football at the U.S. Military Academy. He graduated from West Point in 1976.

Odierno was charged by the Bush administration in 2007 with commanding the controversial so-called "surge" in the Iraq War.

The rapid deployment of tens of thousands of additional troops proved a success in quelling violence in Iraq and reducing American casualties and boosted Odierno's profile in military and global affairs.

He gained further international prominence in 2008, after replacing Gen. David Petraeus as the commander of the multinational force in Iraq.

Odierno was known within military circles for his deep commitment to the Army and to those soldiers, and their families, killed and wounded in service of their nation.

"Ray firmly believes soldiers aren't in the Army, they are the Army," Army Secretary John McHugh said at Odierno's retirement ceremony in 2105, the Army Times reported. "It's always been his No. 1 job to serve them well and serve them honorably. Whether it's fighting in Tikrit or visiting a hospital bed at Walter Reed, he's led with a quick mind, calloused hands and a servant's spirit."

Odierno is survived by his wife Linda, who he met in high school, as well as their three children, including retired Capt. Tony Odierno, a combat veteran, and their families.

MILITARY SUPPORT FOR  
FIGHTING WILDFIRES ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 12, 2021*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the "Military Support for Fighting Wildfires Act" with Representative SARA JACOBS (D-CA53) as the original cosponsor. This comprehensive bill would improve the military's support for civilian emergency response and provide Congressional authorization for the California Air National Guard's "FireGuard" program in partnership with the U.S. Air Force and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.

The American military has incredible capabilities for intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR). As chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness, I believe that these capabilities can and should be used to support civilian emergency response to wildfires and other natural disasters with the appropriate safeguards for privacy and classified collection means.

I also believe that excess military aircraft—including the seven Coast Guard HC-130H aircraft directed by Congress for transfer to the U.S. Forest Service and the State of California for wildfire response, following reconfiguration by the Air Force—should be made available for civilian wildland firefighting efforts. As western states like California face increasingly severe and frequent wildfires due to man-made climate change, we need all the help we can get from our federal government including the military.

That is exactly what my "Military Support for Fighting Wildfires Act" would accomplish. This comprehensive legislation builds upon the work of many members of California's Congressional delegation, including Representatives ADAM B. SCHIFF (D-CA28), SALUD O.

CARBAJAL (D-CA24), and ZOE LOFGREN (D-CA19) and U.S. Senators DIANNE FEINSTEIN (D-CA) and ALEX PADILLA (D-CA). I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues as our state confronts the harsh realities of a new, year-round fire season due to manmade climate change.

The California National Guard has used remotely piloted and unmanned aircraft systems, such as the MQ-9, for life-saving emergency operations in the past. However, these joint missions have only been completed a handful of times due to the lengthy approval process requiring the Secretary of Defense to sign off on each of these requests in advance.

To address this hurdle, I secured a provision (Section 519C) in the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283) directing the U.S. Department of Defense to review its approval process for the use of unmanned aircraft systems by the National Guard in support of civilian emergency responders. The House Armed Services Committee received these recommendations under my Congressionally directed report in April 2021, and I expect the DOD to implement these changes fully.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to working with you and other members of the California delegation to advance these key reforms in my "Military Support for Fighting Wildfires Act." I encourage all members to join me in cosponsoring this commonsense bill.

RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER AS MANUFACTURING MONTH

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 12, 2021*

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join the Manufacturing Association of Central New York (MACNY) in recognizing the month of October as Manufacturing Month. This month serves to highlight the manufacturing industry's significant contributions to Central New York and our nation, while encouraging young people to pursue opportunities in manufacturing.

Importantly, in my district in Central New York, the Manufacturing Association of Central New York and its members are significant job creators for our region and drivers of the economy. Collectively, the organization is made up of over 300 businesses, which employ over 50,000 workers. It's not an understatement to say our regional economy depends on the Manufacturing Association of Central New York and its members.

Beyond Central New York, manufacturing has a rich history in the United States. Manufacturing grew our economy, built the middle class, and helped us modernize. This industry was an important part of our past, and should be a part of our future. That's why today, it's increasingly important to celebrate the manufacturing industry, educate young people about careers in manufacturing, and expand educational opportunities to ensure highly-skilled positions are filled.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me during the month of October in recognizing Manufacturing Month as well as the great contributions of the Manufacturing Association of Central New York.

HONORING ANNA WASHINGTON  
LEE

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 12, 2021*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable hero, Mrs. Anna Washington Lee.

Mrs. Anna Washington Lee was born September 19, 1917, in Sunflower, Mississippi. On Sunday, September 19, 2021, a precious gift of life and love, celebrated her 104th birthday with her family, students and friends in acknowledgment of her motherhood and service.

From her humble beginnings in rural Sunflower County, Mrs. Lee, along with her twelve siblings, were raised on a system of integrity premised on the tenets of love, kindness and compassion imparted by their parents. Her parents instilled a central moral compass that echoed the heart of the Good Samaritan and core ethical values encompassed in the importance of work, family, community, and the love of God. Known for her kindness and willingness to assist others, Mrs. Lee has devoted most of her life as the matriarch of her family, as an educator for 49½ years in Sunflower and Bolivar Counties. She is also the oldest living female resident of the City of Mound Bayou, Mississippi.

Mrs. Lee is a God-fearing Christian, a devoted nurturing mother of one child and one grandson. She is the living embodiment of a woman of Proverbs 31:10. She is a woman after God's own heart, committed to her faith, her family, and her friends. Her faithful membership of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church has shown her as an upstanding pillar in the community.

Mrs. Lee remains the archetype icon and central foundation of a family that retains and unbreakable bond of love, honor, devotion, commitment and encouragement for each generation; and at 104 years of age, Mrs. Lee, "Ma Anna" as she is affectionately called, continues to be a blessing to others through her impartation words of advice and wise counsel to those in her company as a reminder of God's unfailing love for us all.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Anna Washington Lee for her dedication and tenacity to serving her community and desire to be an example for all.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-  
MENDATION FOR CAPTAIN  
JOSEPH F. KIEFER

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 12, 2021*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am honored to present Captain Joseph F. Kiefer, Jr., U.S. Air Force with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Throughout his life, he's worked to put the needs and interests of others first.

During his years of military service, Capt. Kiefer held multiple vital positions. He served in Vietnam as part of the 2nd Aerial Port Group, displaying meticulous attention and

professionalism in his work. He went on to distinguish himself as the Chief of Tactical Operations Branch at Langley Air Force Base where his outstanding leadership was known to directly enhance the readiness posture of all active duty assigned to the Tactical Air Command.

Along with defending our nation, public service has been a driving force in Capt. Kiefer's life. A pillar of Central Texas, he dedicates his time and energies to his local community with roles ranging from a Narcotics and Criminal Investigator to President of the Temple Lions Parks and Charities. It's true and devoted public servants like Capt. Kiefer that make Central Texas a great place to call home.

I commend Capt. Kiefer's selfless service to his community and nation. He is a fitting recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation and I celebrate his service.

HONORING THE CAREER OF MR.  
KEVIN WOODWARD

**HON. JIM BANKS**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 12, 2021*

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of Mr. Kevin Woodward of Wells County.

Kevin has been essential to the common welfare of Wells County and its residents for over 30 years.

Most in Wells County know him to be a distinguished public servant. In 1990, Kevin was elected to the Ossian Town Board. In 1994, he was elected to the Wells County Council. Then, in 2000, he was elected commissioner of Wells County, a role in which he would serve for 21 years. As commissioner, Kevin worked diligently and tirelessly to respond to citizen concerns, fulfill state and local requirements, and see that county operations run smoothly.

So outstanding was Kevin's tenure as commissioner that he enjoyed overwhelming popular support and often the backing of both local Republican and Democrat parties. He believed in a "common sense approach to local government," rooted in discerning the concerns of hardworking, tax-paying Hoosiers.

Apart from his public service, Kevin is family man with roots deep in Wells County. Born and raised in Ossian, Kevin has been married for 38 years to Linda, with whom he has two sons and two granddaughters.

This is a testament to Kevin's long and distinguished service to Wells County. As he enters retirement, I wish him Godspeed in this new chapter of life, and to know that the county, and the whole of northeast Indiana, is forever grateful for him.

HONORING DUPLAIN W. RHODES III

**HON. TROY A. CARTER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 12, 2021*

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, Duplain W. Rhodes, III., (fondly known as "Pete") transitioned to his eternal heavenly rest early morning on Thursday, September

23, 2021, at the age of 61. He was at peace in his final moments beside his loving wife, Sherry Landix Rhodes.

Pete, born on November 14, 1959, was the only son of the late Doris Millaud and Duplain W. Rhodes, Jr. He spent his formative years in the Chef Menteur and Lacombe family homes with his beloved older sisters, Sandra Rhodes Duncan, Duplynn Joan Rhodes, Stephanie Rhodes Navarre, Kathleen Rhodes Astorga, and the late Edith Gomes. Pete was extremely close to his family, his dear Mable, and childhood dog, Annabel. Pete made lifelong friends in the Rhodes Drive neighborhood with Dennis Walker, Jimmy Robert, Cyril Barthé, Ronald Woods, Don and John Scott, Eugene Bart, the late Corey Williams, Kenneth Walker, C.J. LaSassier, and Yancy Robert.

Pete attended Martinez Kindergarten, Valena C. Jones Elementary School, and was a proud graduate of Saint Augustine High School (class of 1977). He later attended Louisiana State University (LSU), Morehouse College of Atlanta, Georgia and obtained his degree in Mortuary Science from Worsham College in Wheeling, Illinois (class of 1991). Pete forged lasting friendships with "Morehouse men"—Joe Lewis, Chuck Releford, David Boyd, Michael Moultrie, Mark Moultrie, Richard Harleaux, and Ernest Cherrie—until the end.

Pete earned his Funeral Director and Embalmer's License from the Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors in 1992, after completing an apprenticeship under his oldest sister, Sandra. At an early age, Pete worked in the Rhodes' family businesses and was a servant leader in the New Orleans community. His parents instilled the value of hard work and education. Pete traveled with his parents and siblings. He participated in a fact-finding trip to France for Louisiana Economic Development opportunities. Pete grew professionally as a funeral director, embalmer, and remarkable businessman. Pete accepted responsibilities at the New Orleans International Airport during the years of Airport Rhodes.

He was the President of Duplain W. Rhodes Funeral Home, a director on all Rhodes corporation boards, and proudly served as funeral director to many grieving families. Pete was also the manager of Rhodes Limousine Service, Rhodes Care Center, and supervised upkeep of the 80-acre tree farm in Lacombe, LA. He was appointed to serve on the State of Louisiana Embalmers and Funeral Directors board where he served in multiple roles including Secretary, Treasurer, and most recently Vice President. In July 2021, he was extended for an additional four-year term. He served on the Louisiana Judiciary Commission (1997–2001).

As an investor with the Jazzville Group, Pete was instrumental in successfully bringing the only land-based casino to New Orleans. He was a member and integral in reinvigorating the Crescent City Funeral Directors. Pete was a member of the Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure Club and former member of Young Men Illinois Club. He was also active in the National Funeral Directors & Morticians Association (NFD&MA) and National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA).

To balance his demanding life, Pete found peace among the bayous and large oaks of Lacombe. He enjoyed holidays with family there and loved traveling weekly to visit Lacombe with his son. Pete enjoyed exhilarating activities such as flying airplanes, deep